

those members were subjected, whose seats were in that quarter of the Hall opposite the committee room, by the constant passing and re-passing of members and others, and he moved the appointment of a committee of three, whose duty it should be to ascertain what alteration could be made in the Hall that would add to the comfort and convenience of the members.

Ordered accordingly.

The committee was ordered to consist of the following gentlemen:

Messrs. MAGRAW, DIRICKSON, and SAPPINGTON.

HOOR OF MEETING.

Mr. STEPHENSON offered the following order.

"Ordered, That from and after the third day of February next, this Convention will meet daily at 10 o'clock, A. M., except Mondays, on which day the hour of meeting shall be 11 o'clock."

Mr. RIDGELY moved that the order be laid upon the table.

Mr. HARBINE asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered, and being taken, were yeas 35, nays 37.

So the motion was not laid on the table.

Mr. WARE moved to amend the order by making the hour of meeting on Monday 12 o'clock.

Mr. STEPHENSON accepted the amendment.

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER moved to amend, by making the hour of meeting on Monday *ten* instead of *twelve*.

Mr. STEPHENSON accepted the amendment.

And by ayes 21, noes 34, the amendment was rejected.

The yeas and nays were called for by Mr. DASHIELL, and after some conversation on a point of order, were taken, and were yeas 40, nays 37.

So the amendment was adopted.

Mr. MORGAN moved a call of the House.

Mr. BUCHANAN seconded the motion.

The call was ordered, and the roll of the members was called.

On motion of Mr. McHENRY, all further proceedings on the call were dispensed with.

After some further conversation, the reading of the resolution was called for, and its confused phraseology, as amended, give rise to some merriment.

Mr. TUCK moved to amend by substituting the hour of half-past eleven on Monday.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. McMASTER moved to lay the whole subject on the table.

Mr. STEPHENSON asked the yeas and nays.

Mr. McMASTER withdrew his motion.

Mr. MORGAN renewed it.

Mr. HARBINE asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered, and being taken, were yeas 35, nays 40.

So the subject was not laid on the table.

The question recurred on the passage of the resolution.

Mr. PHELPS proceeded to refer to the continual changes of rules which the Convention made, and to the consumption of time which resulted from

Buncombe speeches made on propositions of this description, when

The hour of twelve having arrived,

A motion was made by Mr. HARBINE, to postpone the orders of the day, for the purpose of disposing of the pending question.

The Convention refused to postpone.

And thereupon the Convention passed to the orders of the day.

MASTER AND SLAVE.

Mr. JENIFER, by general consent, called the attention of the Convention to the proceedings which had taken place yesterday on the report of Committee No. 14, upon the relation of master and slave. The Convention would recollect, he said, that he had moved that the consideration of the report be postponed until Monday next. The committee had met last night, and were unanimously of opinion that it would be better to accept the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's county, (Mr. Bowie,) in lieu of their own report. The amendment proposed by that gentleman, was in the following words:

"The Legislature shall not pass any law to abolish or change the relation of master and slave, as it now exists in this State."

The only words added by the committee, (continued Mr. J.) are the words "or change," after the word "abolish."

Mr. BOWIE. That will do.

Mr. JENIFER, continuing. I believe that this will meet with the unanimous approbation of the Convention. At the same time, I must say that in the judgment of the committee, the provision which they had reported, did, in fact cover the whole ground. They have instructed me, however, to report the amendment, and I hope it will be adopted.

Whilst I am on the floor, I will say that I hope we shall not hereafter hear any denunciations as to the action of the committees of this body, unless gentlemen are perfectly sure that they stand in a position which entitles them to make charges of dereliction of duty. The meetings of the committee, at the head of which I have been placed, have always been attended by such members as were in the city, and last night, inclement as the weather was, the venerable and distinguished gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) was in attendance, as was also every other member. Every proposition which has been referred to that committee, has been considered, and though of course there have been differences of opinion, yet every subject has been acted on, so far as it was possible to act. I have felt it due to myself to make this brief statement of facts.

I hope the orders of the day will be postponed to enable the Convention to act upon this report.

The PRESIDENT. The Convention having refused to postpone the orders of the day, the motion can only be received by unanimous consent.

[Cries of "consent"—"consent."]